



Daily Report

West Europe

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EU: Brittan Warns UK Against Single Currency Delays

MS2102092296 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 21 Feb 96 p 11

[Interview with Sir Leon Brittan, Vice-President European Commission, by Toby Helm; date and place not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sir Leon Brittan, Britain's senior Commissioner in Brussels, has accused the Government of behaving like an ostrich by sticking its head in the sand over the single European currency.

In an interview with The Daily Telegraph, Sir Leon said he was confident that at least six countries would join a single currency in three years time.

He said that British businesses would suffer if the Government continued to suggest that the 1999 start date for the Euro was unrealistic for more than a tiny minority of member states.

"There is only one thing I am trying to press on Britain," Sir Leon said. "Don't emulate the ostrich. Don't think it is not going to happen because it is more comfortable if it doesn't." Sir Leon is known to have been irritated by recent statements by British ministers on monetary union, particularly the claim by Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, earlier this month that the single currency faced "a growing credibility problem".

In Brussels, the British government is increasingly seen as waging a deliberate campaign to drive the whole project off course in order to ease tensions in the Conservative Party over the issue.

A former Conservative Cabinet minister and now vice-president of the European Commission, Sir Leon said that he was concerned that British businesses would lose out if they were wrongly advised that the single currency would not happen in 1999. The result could be that British companies might fail to make the necessary preparations and would therefore be at a disadvantage.

"If politicians lull them into a false sense of security they will make the wrong decisions because they have got to make decisions on the basis of whether EMU [European Economic and Monetary Union] is going to happen and whether Britain participates or not."

Sir Leon's comments, which will infuriate Right wingers in Britain, form part of a concerted Commission counter-attack against the growing band of European politicians who now believe that the EMU timetable is too optimistic.

In a deliberate attempt to stiffen member states' resolve to bring down their debt and deficit levels in time for the

1999 launch he insisted it was wrong to think countries such as France would fail to rise to the challenge.

"I have just come from Hungary and the percentage reduction in the budget deficit that they have achieved in one year is far greater than what the French have got to do in three years... It can be done," he said.

Furthermore, although the slowdown in the European economy had presented new problems, there was no need for any loosening of the economic entry tests laid down in the Maastricht Treaty and no need for a postponement of the date.

The countries that Sir Leon believes will be ready for entry in 1999 include: Germany, France, the Netherlands, Austria, Belgium and Luxembourg. As for Britain, which has the right to opt-out the single currency but is likely to be in a position to join if it so wishes, Sir Leon said there was no urgency for a decision now. But he added: "I think it would be in Britain's interest to join, yes."

Sir Leon's advice to the British Government on the intergovernmental conference on the EU's future, which opens next month will also anger Conservative ministers who are determined to defend Britain's right to veto decisions in the Council of Ministers.

Britain, which wants bigger countries, including itself, to win a greater share of the votes in the council, would have to agree to drop its right of veto on certain policy issues as a trade-off with smaller nations, Sir Leon said.

"An essential deal has got to be that on the one hand we gain by having a rebalancing of voting rights in favour of larger countries... in return for a very modest increase in qualified majority voting."

Sir Leon said the Conservative Right, which in the early Eighties had supported bringing down inflation and deficits in addition to the extension of free trade, had become "very confused" in its approach to Europe. Referring to efforts by the French to bring their economy into line with the Maastricht criteria, Sir Leon said "I find it bizarre that Euro-sceptics should sneer at the efforts of our partners to do what we did not without considerable difficulty in the early Eighties at home."

There was now a contradiction in the arguments coming from Right-wingers, he said. While they saw themselves as the champions of free trade, their determination to defend British sovereignty to the death was preventing further liberalisation.

"It is preventing extending liberalism beyond the nation state in Europe and preventing the British bulwark of liberalism being reinforced."

Austria Named in UK's Scott Report on Arms for Iraq*AU1902211196 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German
19 Feb 96 p 5*

[Report by "ag:" "Arms for Iraq: Greens Demand Clarification"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Vienna/London — Greens' security spokesman Rudi Anschöber has demanded that an alleged arms scandal should be cleared up as quickly as possible. He was referring to a British report (the Scott Report), which mentions Austria as a country via which arms components were supplied to Iraq between 1986 and 1988. The 2,000-page report analyzes arms exports and the role played by the British Government at that time.

Anschöber said that the interior and defense ministers must explain immediately what exactly their predecessors knew about these arms deals. Unless their reports to parliament remove all the suspicions, the Greens will demand a parliamentary investigating committee.

The Scott Report mentions that a British company's ammunition shipments to the Austrian firms Assmann Metallindustrie and Hirtenberger ended up in Iraq. The ammunition shipment consisted of 363,000 detonators. The international import certificate, which was issued by the Austrian Trade Ministry, did, however, not allow re-export, the report says. The companies and ministries concerned were not available for comments on the matter at the weekend. [passage omitted]

Austria: Parties Agree To Continue Border Protection*AU2002150696 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German
20 Feb 96 p 6*

[Report by Dietmar Neuwirth: "Border Protection by Army Fixed Until Turn of the Millennium"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Vienna — Since the early nineties, the Austrian Army has viewed "its" employ-

ment as a protection from persons who cross the border illegally in eastern Austria with mixed feelings. In the negotiations between the SPOe [Social Democratic Party of Austria] and the OeVP [Austrian People's Party], it was now even agreed to prolong his army assistance for the Interior Ministry — that is, for the entire new legislative period, and thus until 1999.

This decision was made for reasons of saving. The SPOe, where there is opposition to the fact that Austria is the only EU country that has permanently deployed troops as its external border, has to reluctantly give in to the dictate of the empty coffers. [passage omitted]

Austria: Lambach Graves Stem From 19th Century*AU1502144296 Vienna DER STANDARD in German
15 Feb 96 p 7*

[Report by Kerstin Scheller: "Lambach Graves Are From 19th Century"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Forensic experts in Linz have established that the bones discovered near the site of the proposed Lambach power station do not stem from 1945. Their findings suggest that the bones date from the 19th century at least. [passage omitted] In any case, the remains that have been discovered lay buried for more than 50 years, says the forensic report. One indication of this is that the bone marrow is already dry. Another indication is the teeth, which display an unusual number of holes and show evidence of caries, proof of the poor oral hygiene which still existed in the 19th century. The experts have yet to establish exactly how long the bones have lain buried. They commenced exhumation on Wednesday. The first trench is 20 meters long and 1.5 meters deep.

UK: Rifkind Stresses Need for Confidence Boost in Bosnia

LD2002133596 London PRESS ASSOCIATION
in English 1304 GMT 20 Feb 96

[Report by defense correspondent Charlie Miller from Sarajevo]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind flew into Sarajevo on an urgent confidence boosting mission today as hundreds of Bosnian Serbs fled their homes in a huge new exodus of refugees. He found the city beset by doubts and genuine fear despite the apparent successes of the Rome summits at the weekend that gave a public boost to the peace process. Mr Rifkind warned the West and the rest of the world not to abandon Bosnia now that it does not grab the headlines as often as before.

Streams of Bosnian Serb refugees vividly showed their lack of faith in the peace agreements by fleeing the suburbs of Sarajevo before they come under Bosnian government control on March 19. Details of towns earmarked to take the refugees from specific suburbs have been broadcast on Bosnian Serb radio.

Mr Rifkind acknowledged the human crisis and called on the Bosnian Serbs to remain in their homes. "Of course, there is nervousness and that is very understandable," he said after meetings with Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, Prime Minister Hasan Muratovic and Foreign Minister Jadranko Prlic. "It is very important that every step should be taken to maintain confidence among Serbs in the suburbs. There is a genuine and common desire that the Serb residents should continue to live in their homes."

Mr Rifkind, in a determined effort to boost low moral in Sarajevo, underlined Britain's continuing commitment to play a key role in the military and civilian operations. "A huge amount has been achieved and there is every reason for great optimism as to the future," he said. "But we know in a situation of this kind that things can take a turn for the worse at any moment." And he emphasised: "There is a need for constant help and vigilance."

The people of Sarajevo do not feel the Rome summit achieved anything and they insist that genuine confidence building measures by the international community are now urgently needed.

Mr Rifkind was anxious to lend his support publicly to Carl Bildt, the head of the civilian reconstruction programme, who is struggling to find sufficient hard cash to carry out all the necessary work.

Meanwhile, Britain has firmly ruled out replacing the NATO-led Implementation Force [IFOR] with a Euro-

pean peace-keeping operation at the end of the year. IFOR will start to reduce from the summer and there is a determination both in Europe and the United States that the operation will be completed by the end of December. NATO officials are already looking at the possibility of replacing IFOR with a European force but a senior British official said "it would be barmy".

Britain is deeply concerned that if the U.S. did not have troops on the ground in Bosnia a conflict could quickly arise between Europe and America over Bosnian policy as was seen in the first years of the civil war.

UK: Portillo on European Common Defense Policy

LD2002180296 London BBC Television Network
in English 1230 GMT 18 Feb 96

[Interview with British Defense Secretary Michael Portillo by correspondent John Humphrys in London; from the "On The Record" program — live]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Humphrys] Mr. Portillo, the Maastricht Treaty signed us up for working towards a common defense policy for Europe; are we now backing away from that?

[Portillo] Working towards are not words used in the Maastricht Treaty, actually...

[Humphrys, interrupting] But that is the essence of it?

[Portillo] Well, we signed a general declaration about foreign and security policy, and part of that says that it will include defense policy. There is nothing very specific in those words at Maastricht, because I think everybody understood that the day for proper discussion about all of that would be the next inter-governmental conference, the one that is beginning in 1996.

But I wonder if I can just take a step back so as to make the position clear from our point of view. The European Union plays a vital part in the security of Europe. The development of the bonds between the nations — trade and cultural and economic — are vital to security.

When it comes to defense, for the last, nearly 50 years, NATO has been the really important body, and that includes the Americans and the Canadians. Now we think that Europeans should be able to demonstrate to the world and to America that they are able to do more for themselves. But whatever arrangements we come to, they must not be in conflict or competition with NATO; they must not undermine NATO.

And the problem with lodging it too closely with the European Union, I think, is that because the European Union has institutions, the European Court, the European Commission, the European Parliament, whose decisions for the future we cannot know, we cannot know

either then whether the future decisions of the European Union would be compatible with NATO. That in essence is the problem, I think.

[Humphrys] But the Maastricht Treaty was quite clear about talking of the WEU [Western European Union] as the defense component of the European Union, its strength and its role in that direction and for the long-term defense... [pauses] for a long-term defense policy, common defense policy in Europe. [It is] quite clear about that, the role of the WEU.

[Portillo] But quite clear about something else as well, that the WEU has two different functions, that it is the defense arm of the European Union and it is the European side of NATO.

Now we thoroughly support the WEU. Its membership, as your map showed, includes countries like Norway and Turkey, who are not members of the European Union, but obviously very important to NATO, and they are on the flanks of, you know, the old Soviet Union; that is why they are in NATO. So the WEU, which has a treaty going back 40 years, seems to us the right body, both for the European side of NATO and for helping the European Union to be able to pass on its feelings about defense and security to a body which actually controls military forces.

[Humphrys] Helping — you used that word.

[Portillo] Yes.

[Humphrys] What you then do not want, quite clearly from what you have just said there, you do not want the WEU to be an integral part of the European Union defense policy.

[Portillo] That is right, you put your finger entirely upon it. We think there should be a very intimate relationship between the European Union and the body which has this defense capability, the Western European Union, that they should meet very close to each other, that their ministers should exchange dialogue, that there should be a possibility of passing feelings from the European Union to the WEU, but we do not think that we should merge the two, because we feel that that would begin to draw into question the future and the commitment to NATO.

[Humphrys] But the other nine main members, full members, do. They want, they use the word absorption, they want it absorbed; they want it integrated.

[Portillo] And there is the very matter for discussion at the inter-governmental conference on this issue.

[Humphrys] How are you going to resolve it?

[Portillo] Well, first of all, we have a White Paper coming out quite shortly, as you know, which will set out our positions and our arguments, and thereafter the prime minister obviously will want to take this discussion forward in the Inter-Governmental Conference, an Inter-Governmental Conference which is obviously going to cover a very very wide range of issues. And that is really for him to decide how to play that hand.

[Humphrys] But, play that hand he will, in other words, you, we, Britain will stand out against the other nine in defiance of something that they, all of them, want.

[Portillo] Well, the bit that was missing from your map, of course, was America. And we are all agreed, including Mr. Ruehe and Mr. Millon, who are on your film; we are all agreed that NATO is the vital component for the future of European security. We can see how effective NATO is today in Bosnia and how much more effective than everything that went before.

So your map really ought to include the United States as well. And the United States will also have its feelings about the development of the European expression of its defense identity, that is the jargon, and making sure that that is compatible with NATO, because the last thing we want to do is to make the United States feel as though we are determined to go it on our own and cold-shoulder the United States.

[Humphrys] We and everybody else in Europe, there is no dispute about that, everybody recognizes the importance of NATO, but you talk about what the Americans want. Well, what the Americans want is bringing the Western European Union into Europe to strengthen the institution. That is terribly important from their point of view. Mr. Holbrooke has made that clear.

[Portillo] I think what Dick Holbrooke has said, quite rightly, is that the Europeans must be capable of more activity and more actions themselves.

[Humphrys] And at the moment they are not; they are not fit for the tasks, as he put it.

[Portillo] I entirely agree that we must be able to do more and that is why in the six months that we hold the presidency of the Western European Union, including, as I say Turkey and Norway, we are putting all our emphasis on building up its capabilities. In other words, not worrying so much about institutional change, but concerning ourselves about what European soldiers and sailors and airmen can actually do together. And I think the conclusion we all know is that we can do a bit more, but we would not have been capable of mounting, for instance, the Bosnian NATO operation, without the assistance of the Americans. And with European countries presently reducing their defense expenditure,

of course, some of the important capabilities for which we look to the United States, are not in the short term going to be supplied by European countries.

[Humphrys] That is as may be, and you talk about capabilities, and so do many other people, but they also talk, and the Americans, Mr. Holbrooke talks about institutional change specifically?

[Portillo] Well, institutional change is on the agenda at the inter-governmental conference, but what I think really matters, and I put this point to Dick Holbrooke directly, is not what bodies people meet in, but actually what we are able to do.

[Humphrys] But he does not accept that point?

[Portillo] Well, I am not sure that he does not. I think the thing that really matters to him is indeed what Europeans are able to do.

But I would like to put a different perspective, let me just put a different perspective. You like to talk about Britain being isolated, and so on, I think the argument has strongly come our way over the last six months or so. I mean six months ago you would not have had the French saying in the unequivocal manner that they now are, that they believe that NATO is essential for the — that it is the essential institution for the defense of Europe. And I very much welcome France's coming nearer to us.

And of course it is France that, since 1960 has not been part of the integrated military structure of NATO and it has been in the isolated position.

So our concern that NATO should be reinforced has been confirmed by others and that is very very good. And also, in the last six months, we have had the most intimate working together with French forces in Bosnia, and indeed with Dutch and Germans and with many others, and that also has helped to build the relationship and I think put the emphasis upon what we can actually do together, rather than the fora in which we meet.

[Humphrys] Well, perhaps, up to a point (words indistinct) All of that may be important. It does not avoid the fact of the issue that what Mr. Holbrooke has said is that the institutions, the institutions of Europe are not fit for the task. And that is something you have got to deal with. It is not just the other nine members, the other nine main members, it is America as well.

[Portillo] Well, we will receive, in due course, perhaps a considered view from the United States. My impression is...

[Humphrys, interrupting] I think Mr. Holbrooke thought he fairly considered...

[Portillo, interrupting] No, my impression is that the United States would not be relaxed about the European Union becoming the defense organ of NATO in Europe. That is my impression. But anyway, it is for the United States to speak for itself.

[Humphrys] Yes, you do not really need a crystal ball when you can read the Holbrooke book, do you?

[Portillo] But what I want is to make sure that in an organization that has had a treaty going back 40 years, which operates at the level of sovereign nations working together, that is the WEU, that we make that able to do some of the simpler military tasks.

And here, of course, we come to the crux of the matter. That within NATO, and within the WEU we are talking exclusively about sovereign nation states cooperating together closely, signing a treaty, giving each other pledges of support, but always remaining sovereign in their decision making.

In the European Union, in due course, one could not say what role there would be for the Court, for the Parliament, for the Commission, for the supranational bodies, and that is the point of concern, that these — in defense matters, as you heard Volker Ruehe saying, the decision about deploying troops must always be one that national parliaments are responsible for.

[Humphrys] This is the point, isn't it. You do not like the European institutions. You said, and I quote you — we need to get away from this institutional fixation. That is a view that is increasingly rejected in Europe and by the United States. This is where your problem comes in, isn't it?

[Portillo] It is not that the British Government does not like institutions.

[Humphrys] Well you said so.

[Portillo] No, it is...

[Humphrys, interrupting] Need to get away from the fixation.

[Portillo] With the fixation, which is a different matter. We need to get away from the fixation, and we do not think that in the defense field, supranational bodies have a part to play in deciding where troops should be deployed. Now those are the essences of the discussion.

[Humphrys] The essence, really, is your worry, your dislike for federalism, isn't it. Your dislike of federalism. Your underlining worry is that Europe might get its act together, in this regard, and then we really would be moving towards a common defense policy, and you do not want that because that might lead to a common defense?

[Portillo] What I want is the most intimate cooperation between all the nations within NATO, all the nations within European Union, all the nations that may enter NATO in the future, in order to give us security and to give us defense. But as Volker Ruehe said in your film, the minister from Germany, in the end the decision to deploy troops must be one for national governments, for national parliaments.

[Humphrys] Never been disputed, yes.

[Portillo] Well, I would not say it has never been disputed. It is not disputed at the moment by Volker Ruehe. Now the reassurance that I think it is very difficult to give to the people of Britain, is that if the WEU and EU were to merge, that that possibility of determining for yourself how your troops were deployed, would last for all time.

[Humphrys] So, the message of all this is that there is going to be an almighty bust up over it at the IGC, the Inter-Governmental Conference.

[Portillo] I do not think so. There is...

[Humphrys, interrupting] But it is probable, isn't it?

[Portillo] Well, there is so much that we have in common. And as I say, over the last six months it has been clearer that France wants to get closer to NATO. We have had Volker Ruehe making a statement, that he has made on your program, that I keep talking about, which I think is so welcome. And at the practical level, which is what matters so much, we have been doing marvelous work, dealing with really superb soldiers from other countries in Europe, working shoulder to shoulder with them and showing that we can do things together.

Now our whole theme is, let us go on at the practical level, seeing how we can work better together, and let us not become, as you say, fixated with institution changes.

UK: Saudi Dissident Argues Case Against Deportation

MS2102094796 London *INDEPENDENT in English* 21 Feb 96 p 7

[Report by Will Bennett: "Al-Mas'ari 'Will Risk Death' if Deported"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Saudi dissident Muhammed al-Mas'ari will argue that his life will be in danger if he is deported to Dominica when his case is heard at an immigration appeal tribunal tomorrow.

His defence organisation, the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights, asked John O'Connor, for-

merly a senior Scotland Yard detective, to travel to the Caribbean island to assess the risk to Dr Mas'ari.

Dr Mas'ari said yesterday: "The report concludes that my life will be in danger from all sides, both from Saudi Arabia and from factions within Dominica. There is a very negative attitude towards my coming from all parties in Dominica."

The tribunal at Wood Green, in north London, is scheduled to spend two days examining the British government's decision to expel Dr Mas'ari, whose accusations of corruption and calls for a peaceful transition to Islamic rule in Saudi Arabia have infuriated the Saudi royal family.

The Government is concerned that if he continues to snipe at the Saudi regime from London then Britain will lose valuable defence contracts and other commercial deals. It has been claimed that Dominica has been offered extra aid in return for agreeing to take him.

Earlier this month, a judge ordered the Home Office to disclose details of its discussions with Dominica to Dr Mas'ari to enable him to prepare his case. His lawyers successfully argued at a preliminary hearing that the information was vital to assess whether Dominica would provide a safe haven.

Dr Mas'ari said yesterday: "The documents show that they have been giving extremely misleading information to Dominica about my organisation."

Last year, a Government attempt to deport Dr Mas'ari to Yemen failed when an immigration appeals tribunal ruled that it was not a safe country to send him to because of its geographical and political proximity to Saudi Arabia. If the Home Office loses this second hearing it will probably have to let him stay in Britain.

UK: Hume, Major Talk; Reach 'Little Agreement'

MS2102092996 London *FINANCIAL TIMES in English* 21 Feb 96 p 7

[Report by John Murray Brown: "Hume Warns Against Closing Door on IRA"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dublin — Mr John Hume, leader of the mainly nationalist Social Democratic and Labour party [SDLP] and a central architect of the Northern Ireland peace process, said yesterday that the British and Irish governments must fix a date for all-party talks if they wanted to secure another IRA ceasefire.

Attacking London's decision to break off ministerial contacts with Sion Fein, the IRA's political wing, Mr

Hume warned the two governments "not to close the door" on the IRA.

Mr Hume said that he had had a meeting in the past few days with Mr Gerry Adams, Sinn Fein president, in an effort to find a way forward. Mr Hume's analysis is likely to be given considerable weight by the two governments.

After an 80-minute meeting with Mr John Major, the prime minister, on Monday, Mr Hume said that he was encouraged by his response. However, party officials privately indicated that it was a tough exchange and there was little agreement on a compromise.

While Dublin appears to have warmed to the British idea for an elective process to pave the way for all-party negotiations, Mr Hume's opposition to "any sort of election" appears to have hardened.

In an interview he reiterated his idea of a referendum to be held in both north and south which would condemn the use of violence for political ends. "For the first time, we will demonstrate to everybody including the IRA, that there is no support for the use of violence," he said.

London and Dublin have both said that as a first step the IRA has to reinstate the ceasefire. In an implicit warning to Sinn Fein, Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland secretary, told parliament on Monday that the two governments would consider moving ahead with the talks process without Sinn Fein, if necessary.

Mr John Bruton, the Irish prime minister, told parliament in Dublin that the peace process could continue without an IRA ceasefire.

Mr Hume said yesterday that he was "personally shattered" by the resumption of violence, but warned the two governments to move quickly to all-party talks. "If you have a problem in your big toe, you sort it out, you don't ignore it. In my opinion had we made more progress towards all-party talks during the past 18 months of the ceasefire, we would not be in the situation we are in today," he said. "If we want a solution both governments have to clearly state their objective is to hold all-party talks and fix a date for all-party talks."

For Conservative backbenchers, suspicious of what undertakings Mr Hume may have given to Sinn Fein, the resumption of the violence has raised fresh doubts about the SDLP leader's judgment.

There are also divisions in his own party. Mr Seamus Mallon, deputy leader, has been much more vociferous in his condemnation of the IRA, and has called on the terrorists to choose between violence and the democratic route.

UK: PUP, UVF Break Contacts With Irish Government

LD2002140596 London PRESS ASSOCIATION
in English 0937 GMT 20 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Loyalist representatives have broken off direct contact with the Irish Government.

Leaders of the Progressive Unionist Party (PUP), a fringe group associated with the outlawed Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) confirmed today there would be no more discussions with Dublin.

The Combined Loyalist Military Command, the umbrella organisation for all the Protestant paramilitaries, is expected to meet soon, possibly later today, to discuss the crisis in the peace process.

Loyalist sources insisted their ceasefire holds despite the IRA attacks, but admitted there could be pressure on the paramilitaries to strike if the renewed terror campaign by the Provisionals spreads to Northern Ireland.

One told PA News: "The loyalist and Unionist population must remain calm and not be provoked into a reaction which places them in a shared blame process rather than a peace process."

In the meantime the regular direct contact with Mr John Bruton's coalition government is suspended - and loyalists have criticised a "lack of diplomacy" by Irish officials.

They claimed Dublin failed to inform them at a private meeting a fortnight ago of an idea by the foreign minister, Mr Dick Spring to call Bosnia-style proximity talks as a way of breaking the deadlock over all-party dialogue.

Mr David Ervine of the PUP said they were unaware of the plan until they returned to Belfast - even though officials were asked five times what the Irish alternative was to Unionist proposals for elections to a new forum.

He said today: "It was wholly disingenuous and we were left to try and explain to the rest of our party how we were bounced by the Irish government. We felt insulted."

UK: London Works on Peace Process Plan Without Sinn Fein

MS2102093896 London INDEPENDENT in English
21 Feb 96 p 2

[Report by Donald Macintyre and Colin Brown: "Peace Formula To Exclude Sinn Fein"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government is seeking to produce a blueprint by next week for fresh stages in the

Northern Ireland peace process which would exclude Sinn Fein unless there is a credible restoration of the IRA ceasefire.

The government is intensifying its efforts to draw up a document outlining the stages aimed at securing political talks between the parties in time for a summit between John Major and John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, by the middle of next week.

The struggle to maintain momentum towards political progress with or without Sinn Fein continued yesterday as Mr Major met David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, and Mr Bruton intensified pressure for a date to be set for all-party talks on Northern Ireland.

The Irish government regards the setting of a date as crucial if it is to have any leverage on Sinn Fein in securing a restoration of the ceasefire. Mr Bruton said yesterday Sinn Fein would only be permitted to join in negotiations once their IRA allies "stop the killing".

The blueprint currently under consideration is believed to include a fusion of the "proximity" talks sought by Dublin, which could agree the form of elections to a body from which the participants in full talks would be selected, and possibly a simultaneous referendum in Northern Ireland and the Republic. The referendum proposal, sought by John Hume, the SDLP (Social Democratic and Labour Party) leader, would be the first cross-border plebiscite on the island since 1918 and could, according to some government sources, demonstrate the limited support for Sinn Fein and the IRA bombing campaign.

The delicate blueprint discussions might envisage Sinn Fein taking part in the elections — provided they

renounced violence. But they would not be able to take part in the talks without renouncing violence or without a restoration of the IRA ceasefire.

Mr Trimble suggested yesterday that Sinn Fein and the other parties would be required to sign up to the six principles in the Mitchell report, including renouncing violence before being allowed to enter all-party negotiations after elections to a new body in Northern Ireland.

Mr Trimble said: "We agreed there would have to be a further ceasefire and this time a genuine ceasefire with a real commitment to peaceful means ... Those parties who didn't commit themselves to this would have excluded themselves."

Mr Major in the Commons condemned the three IRA bomb incidents as the action of "men callously unconcerned about innocent death or injury" to people unconnected with the disputes in Ulster.

Asked what would constitute a "genuine" ceasefire, Mr Trimble said: "A total absence of violence, a complete commitment to exclusively peaceful means ... decommissioning — that is inescapable."

Dick Spring, the Irish Foreign Minister, said yesterday that if the elections excluded from Sinn Fein, the problem would continue. "... It has been made very obvious that there will not be an elective process unless it has the support of the nationalists as well as the unionists."

Ireland: Bruton Urges Setting Date for All-Party Talks

LD2002164096 London PRESS ASSOCIATION
in English 1616 GMT 20 Feb 96

[By Chris Parkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Irish prime minister John Bruton today intensified pressure for a date to be set for all-party talks on the future of Northern Ireland.

Mr Bruton said he had urged that move - which offered the best hope for reinstating the IRA ceasefire - in his latest 30-minute phone call on Monday night with John Major.

But the Dublin premier made it clear that Sinn Fein would only be permitted to take part in negotiating once their IRA allies "stop the killing".

He told the Irish parliament: "Killing people has no place in politics. This democratic state cannot acknowledge the right of any organisation to wage war - as the IRA is doing. I want to make it clear that the objective of the government is to get the IRA campaign stopped. If that happens, then there is no obstacle to the full participation of Sinn Fein in all-party talks."

"We want a specific date for those talks. I believe it is the best way of bringing about an IRA ceasefire."

Mr Bruton pointed out that Sinn Fein had an electoral mandate "from a significant section of the community, and the views of those people have to be taken into account, if one is looking for an overall settlement".

The Irish leader said consultations were continuing with Downing Street about arrangements for an Anglo-Irish summit on the peace process. Sources in Dublin believe the meeting will go ahead in London early next week.

In the meantime, Mr Bruton will have talks in Dublin on Thursday with former United States Senator George Mitchell, who chaired the international panel that investigated the arms dimension of the peace process earlier this year.

Deputy Irish premier Dick Spring today said he "desperately" wanted the IRA campaign to end. But speaking in a peace process debate in the Senate - the upper Dublin parliamentary house - he added: "Even if the IRA were to vanish tomorrow, there would still be a need to reach an accommodation which addresses all the relevant relationships and allows the people of this island and of these islands to live and work together."

Ireland: Bruton Says Republicans Need 'Internal Rethink'

LD2102130296 Dublin RTE Radio One Network
in English 1200 GMT 21 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The taoiseach [Prime Minister Bruton] has told the Dail [parliament] an internal rethink is necessary in the republican movement for peace to take hold. Mr. Bruton said that throughout the ceasefire IRA structures were fully maintained, punishment beatings were undertaken, and the entire organization was kept on a military footing.

Mr. Bruton was replying to questions from the leaders of Fianna Fail and the Progressive Democrats, who had raised the terms under which the referendum proposed by the SDLP's (Social Democratic and Labour Party) John Hume might take place.

Ireland: IRA Power Shift Blamed For End of Cease-Fire

MS2102114796 Dublin THE SUNDAY TRIBUNE
in English 18 Feb p 12

[Report by Feargal Keane: 'Army Council Power Shift Ended Ceasefire']

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A shift in the power balance on the IRA Army Council three months ago precipitated the ending of the IRA ceasefire last week.

The security services on both sides of the border believe that the Army Council has now moved away significantly from the leadership of Sinn Fein, whose prompting led to the ceasefire. Hardline IRA figures from Derry, Belfast and Dundalk are now thought to hold sway over the Army Council and are building up to a full-scale return to armed conflict.

Security sources said this weekend that the shift in IRA attitudes was signalled three months ago when two of the team of republicans negotiating at Stormont pulled out of talks and left them to the leadership of Sinn Fein.

The exact make up of the Army Council is unknown by the security services on both sides of the Border at present, because of the relative level of inactivity in the past 17 months.

But power on the Army Council is now thought to lie with two senior IRA men from Belfast, one from Derry and one in Dundalk.

One of the Belfast IRA men is in his mid-50s and is a long-time 'hawk' -- favouring military action -- who had been sceptical about the ceasefire from the beginning. Described by those who know him as a republican fundamentalist, he served a prison sentence

in the 1970s and has been a driving force behind the IRA for 25 years.

Another hawk on the Army Council is a former escapee from the Maze prison who has been a leading member of the IRA both in prison and outside since the mid-1970s. His attitude to the ceasefire is believed to have changed late last year after talks with representatives of the British Government at Stormont failed to achieve a breakthrough in negotiations.

South of the border, members include a man from Monaghan who at one time was IRA Chief of Staff but is now thought to have lost influence and may be about to step down should the ceasefire prove irreparable.

Another member is based in Dundalk and another in Dublin. The Dublin Army Council member has been nicknamed The Engineer because of his expertise in electronics. Both are considered to be hawks.

Germany: Ruehe, Millon Agree on European Defense Policy

LD2002150896 Berlin DDP/ADN in German
1402 GMT 20 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Berlin, 20 Feb (DDP/ADN) — Germany and France intend to work together to push forward a European approach to defense policy. This was agreed by German Defense Minister Volker Ruehe and his French counterpart Charles Millon during talks in Berlin today. Ruehe told journalists afterwards that Europe will have to become used to the idea of resolving future crises itself. Both sides affirmed their desire to press forward with this in close cooperation.

Ruehe said one of this year's most important joint objectives is to reform NATO from the inside. He said the aim is to open the alliance up to new members and to create structures which would make Europe able to tackle the tasks of the future.

Both sides agreed to hold future consultations in order to brief each other in particular on the issue of conscription. Millon said the debate on the possible abolition of conscription has only just begun in France. Ruehe said in contrast that Germany will retain military service, which he said has been beneficial. It is important for the armed forces "not to become too insular." Nevertheless, the path of partially professionalizing German crisis reaction forces will be continued. These forces comprise up to 80 percent professional soldiers and 20 percent conscripts.

Germany: CDU/CSU Spokesman on Sudeten Germans Issue

LD1702140496 Berlin DDP/ADN in German
1251 GMT 17 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cologne, 17 Feb (DDP/ADN) — Karl Lamers, foreign affairs spokesman of the CDU/CSU [Christian Democratic Union-Christian Social Union] Bundestag group, said regarding German-Czech relations that the government in Prague should "not hide behind the Potsdam Agreement." In contrast to Czech claims, this agreement does not justify the expulsion of Sudeten Germans after World War II, Lamers said on Deutschlandfunk radio today. After all, the expulsion was based on apportioning collective guilt which could not be justified by any treaties. [passage omitted]

Lamers made it clear that the German Government does not demand the "total lifting" of the so-called Benes decrees which formed the basis for the expulsion of Sudeten Germans. However, Prague should distance itself morally from the "amnesty law" which declared

legal the crimes committed against the Sudeten Germans after the war.

Lamers expressed his confidence that the German-French dialogue will be able to resume the dialogue between the two governments. "A number of problems must be solved, but I think it is possible to find a way out of the situation," he said.

Germany: Government Considers Credit Guarantees for Russia

AU1702211496 Frankfurt/Main FAAR/ADN in German
16 Feb 96

[Report by "Stue"] Bonn Is Planning to Offer Credit Guarantees for Russia

[FBIS Translated Text] Bonn, 18 February — According to information obtained by the press, the German government is considering in Bonn long-term measures to better conditions for Hermes category 5 export guarantees. This process was initiated by an exchange of letters between Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Russian President Boris Yeltsin before Christmas. Sources in the Federal Chancellery office say, however, that Kohl will probably not make a decision during his visit to Russia scheduled for 18 February, because the government must first make a decision. The mere fact that a decision will be made in Bonn is being considered has surprised export circles. They said that in view of Russia's GDP, this was a political decision. Since March 1995, the lowest Hermes category 5 status has been assigned to Russia, which means that the premium of 2 percent of the export value has to be paid. Following a reassessment and upgrade of the status, the premium would be 1.5 percent. As a result, the Russian premium is added to the price and paid by the exporter. A better category for Russia would allow exporters to slightly lower their prices.

The categories were introduced with the German export credit reform on 1 July 1994, as a result of increasing on the risks involved. Payment by Germany of such categorization has often been made in order to protect political prestige. Moscow's call for a better categorization is therefore not unusual. The government agrees that economic criteria are the only decisive factor. Sources in Bonn admit, however, that there is still a discretionary leeway involving the decision to upgrade Russia.

Nonetheless, the Chancellor's office reportedly is open to Russia's wishes. Government sources say that the letter to Yeltsin could even be interpreted as a pledge to upgrade Russia, even though it is not a binding decision.

with the upcoming rescheduling negotiations. Moscow says with some justification that it is currently being placed into the same category as Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan, even though, unlike these countries, Russia has serviced its obligations resulting from debt rescheduling agreements and new borrowing since 1992 on schedule, officials in the Federal Economics Ministry say.

On the other hand, considerable Hermes claims for old Russian debts will become payable in 1996; in 1995, 2 billion marks [DM] were paid. The largest liability risk for the Federal Government from Hermes guarantees concerns Russia; it amounts to DM40.7 billion, including DM23.2 billion from old Soviet debts. The Federal Finance Ministry has said that there is considerable uncertainty regarding the assessment of Russia's credit standing; upgrading Russia could be considered if two conditions were met: On the one hand, the conclusion of an agreement between Russia and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which is currently being negotiated; and, on the other, agreement with the creditor countries of the Paris Club on the planned comprehensive rescheduling. Once the planned IMF agreement is in place later this month, the Paris Club could meet in March at the earliest.

Export business sources have stressed that Russia failed to service unsecured trade credits of between DM1.5 and 2 billion. According to experts, placing Russia into Hermes category 4 would not touch off a major thrust of business with Russia. They say, however, at least more German companies would make offers. Last year, the Hermes ceiling of DM1.5 billion was only used by two-thirds because Moscow was careful about granting government guarantees. For 1996, a Hermes ceiling of the same amount has been agreed upon, and the coverage opportunities for western German exporters have been enlarged.

According to the German Business and Industry Board for Trade with the East, German exports to Russia declined from DM10.8 billion to DM9.5 billion from 1994 to 1995. As an importer of German products, Russia has thus fallen behind Poland and the Czech Republic and ranks third among the former Eastern Bloc states. Regarding imports, which increased from DM13.2 billion to DM13.5 billion, the top position of this group of countries has remained unchanged.

Germany: Iranian Intelligence Blamed for Kidnapping Attempt

*AU1702220196 Berlin DIE WELT in German
17 Feb 96 p 2*

[Unattributed report: "Is Iran Operating Unhindered in Germany?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Bonn — On 16 February, Iranian opposition members blamed Tehran's Intelligence Service Minister 'Ali Fallahian for the attempted kidnapping of a 28-year-old compatriot at the beginning of February, which is currently being investigated by the public prosecutor's office and the State Protection Department of the police in Bonn. Ebrahim Zakeri, spokesman of the National Resistance Council of Iran, stated in Bonn on 16 February that the victim, who managed to free himself later on, was a defected agent, who had been trained to commit acts of terrorism. Iran's ambassador to Bonn, Seyyed Hoseyn Musavian, was informed about the operation in Tehran.

On 16 February, the public prosecutor's office in Bonn confirmed only that an indictment has been issued for dangerous bodily injury and kidnapping. The office does not want to participate in "speculations," its spokesman, Peter Iwand, said.

Germany: Daily Views U.S. Role in Far East Stability

*AU2002145296 Berlin DIE WELT in German
20 Feb 96 p 4*

[Commentary by Lothar Ruehl: "Asian Tensions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The tensions that emerged almost simultaneously, between China and Taiwan, China and Vietnam, and Japan and South Korea are also connected, in territorial conflicts, with acute tensions between the two hostile states of Korea and are developing into an explosive instability in the whole Far East that is radiating to Southeast Asia. This situation may be the result of different, unconnected causes with a common basis — the end of the East-West conflict and the decline of the Russian power as the counterpart of the United States as a world power, which, with its clients and China, has, since 1991, been the only globally and

regionally functioning player in East Asia, but which will be easily overtaken by crises because of its reduced commitment.

While, in the Taiwan issue, China is trying to prevent a consolidation of the Chinese island state's *de facto* independence under U.S. protection and is seeking indirectly to bring pressure to bear on Washington in order to counteract a separatist policy, the United States is seeing itself confronted with a critical development of the ambivalent relations between its two main clients, Japan and South Korea. It is true that their conflict about some islands is of marginal strategic interest to the United States, but it shows that governments that are weak in domestic policy terms are seeking to divert attention and achieve success in foreign policy to improve their own situation.

Since the situation is not threatening to escalate into confrontation between the big powers, as was the case in such situations before 1991, the risk is limited, and the leeway for action is larger than it was during the East-West conflict with the Soviet Union, from which Japan is demanding the return of the Kurile Islands annexed by Stalin in 1945. South Korea, on the other hand, has established goodneighborly relations with China that are focused on trade and capital investments for the transfer of South Korean productions to the big, developing country with an average economic growth of between 10 and 13 percent annually and an inexhaustible reservoir of cheap labor.

On the surface, relations between China and Japan are smooth and, in the economic area, they are even guided favorably by relevant interests, but basically they are potentially strained, because the historical rivalry remains a political constant factor — just like between China and Russia, Japan and Russia, or Japan and Korea. Thus, South Korea can expect indirect support through benevolent neutrality from China in every political conflict with Japan, but must continue to consider China's backing for the communist North Korea.

Beijing has as little interest as Tokyo in the unification of Korea. The nuclear political status of the People's Republic, which has existed since 1993 but is not yet definitely settled, has shown that China shields the communist North Vietnam internationally if this serves its own interests. Beijing is seeking a "balance of power" policy in the Far East in its relations with the two states of Korea, Japan, Russia, and the United States in order

to keep the regional power ratio in the balance until it will be able, owing to modernization and economic expansion, to dominate the correlation of forces in the next decades and then counterbalance the United States also in the West Pacific.

Thus, in the newly emerging geo-economic situation, Japan is brought regionally and globally into competition with a new player not only as an economic and technological power, but is also seeing itself strategically confronted with an Asian power that could reach out to Southeast Asia from the continent and contend with Japan for an economic region that Tokyo has, since the beginning of World War II, tried to organize for its own advantage by varying means and methods. In view of the emerging Japanese-Chinese rivalry, the governments in Southeast Asia are concerned as well as interested, because competition for the large regional markets in the first region of growth and of the future of the world economy in the next century is making their situation toward Japan and China easier, but is also exposing them to expansive strategies that might jeopardize their independence.

In this perspective, the various maritime and territorial marginal conflicts, ranging from Sakhalin in the north to the Spratley Islands and Taiwan in the south, appear only as a prelude to future conflicts that might develop throughout the Asian-West Pacific region. The question asked everywhere in East and Southeast Asia is addressed to Washington: How will the distant U.S. power, with its large trade interests, be present in the future as a strategic moderator and mediator of balanced relations?

Will it continue to put its stakes on Japan and South Korea — or will it also seek to organize a sphere of interests with China, which would be defined economically rather than militarily — a sphere of influence in which the Southeast Asian countries, Taiwan, and South Korea would have more scope for an independent development than under regional Japanese domination or under an expanding Chinese influence? That is why, in the current crises, especially between China and Taiwan — where no war is imminent, but a time of crises with harassing fire — as well as between Japan and South Korea, U.S. President Clinton has to master an exemplary task. He must prove that the United States can be a stabilizing factor in an unstable region of considerable dynamism and global importance.

France: National Assembly Debates Single Currency*BR2102110296 Paris AFP in French
2005 GMT 20 Feb 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Paris, 20 February (AFP) — Economy and Finance Minister Jean Arthuis confirmed once again on Tuesday [20 February] that Paris does not plan to establish a fixed parity between the franc and the German mark before the European single currency goes into effect.

Mr. Arthuis, closing the debate without vote on the single currency in the National Assembly, stated that, in conformity with the Maastricht Treaty, the fixing of parities should "crown the process of economic convergence" among the European countries, rather than "to precede this convergence process."

Mr. Arthuis was responding to Robert Pandraud, RPR [Rally for the Republic] deputy for Seine-Saint-Denis and president of the Assembly delegation for EU affairs, who during the debate had suggested the "rapid" establishment of a fixed franc-mark parity to "facilitate" the transition to the single currency.

Jean Arthuis also stated that it "is out of the question to postpone" the reform of the tax system and compulsory deductions.

The minister was responding to Pierre Mehaignerie, chairman of the National Assembly's Finance Committee, who had stressed that a "fiscal reform" remains necessary, and who had criticized the government's policy of "pinpoint and minor solutions."

"You are correct in stressing the necessity of structural reforms," Mr. Arthuis answered him, closing the debate without vote on the single currency.

"These reforms must include taxation and the totality of compulsory deductions alike. They will be carried out. It is out of the question to postpone them," the minister added.

Mr. Arthuis expressed the wish that this be done "in extensive consultation with the social partners and with national representatives."

France: Juppe Stresses Single Currency Timetable*LD2002174096 Paris Radio France International
in French 1700 GMT 20 Feb 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] On to the debate on economic and monetary union at the National Assembly in France today. The prime minister formally reaffirmed that Paris will keep to the timetable and the criteria as defined in the Maastricht Treaty for the implementation of the

single currency. For Alain Juppe, this has to do first and foremost with politics:

[Begin Juppe recording] One only needs to travel abroad to see that, as seen from China, Hong Kong, or Seoul, Europe can be taken seriously only if it is united. The idea is spreading in all those countries that we are declining nations. That is why I would like to say with determination that the European economic union is first and foremost politically motivated. Second — quite obviously — it is an economic necessity. We must dispel the wrong assumption that the economic austerity resulting from the treaty we signed implies recession and unemployment. This does not mean anything. We must replace this assumption with truth: Monetary stability implies lower interest rates, sustained growth, and job creation. The economic and monetary union means more jobs, not more unemployment. [end recording]

France: Report Sees Europe Seek Greater Role in Mideast*BR2002151496 Paris LE MONDE in French
19 Feb 96 p 4*

[Report by Philippe Lemaître: "Europe Is Seeking a More Active Political Role in the Middle East"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus — Europe, which has so far been left on the sidelines, wants to play a more active role in the Middle Eastern peace process. More generally, in an extension of the approach determined at the European-Mediterranean conference held in Barcelona in November 1995 it wants to strengthen its influence in this region.

On both fronts the European "troika" led by Italian Foreign Minister Susanna Agnelli scored some points during its visit to Damascus, Jerusalem, and Gaza on Tuesday 13 and Wednesday 14 February. Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, and Palestinian Autonomy leader Yasir 'Arafat actually voiced the wish that the EU be present alongside the United States in the peace negotiations that are currently under way. Furthermore, the Syrian president gave the green light to the launch of exploratory talks aimed at concluding an association agreement with the Union, something which he had previously been reluctant to do. The agreement in question would be of the same type as those recently concluded with Tunisia, Israel, and Morocco. Similar agreements are also currently being negotiated with Egypt, Jordan, and Lebanon.

These successes, which will nonetheless still have to be confirmed — especially regarding the European presence at the negotiating table between Jews and

Arabs — are welcome, for just recently the joint diplomatic action taken by the Fifteen has often invited criticism. The difficulties faced in Bosnia by Carl Bildt, the "senior representative" assigned to implement the civilian section of the Dayton agreements, or by Hans Kochnik, the European administrator in Mostar, bear witness to this — as do the lack of intervention in the latest Greek-Turkish incident in the Aegean Sea and the weak efforts made — along with the United Nations and United States — to try and finally resolve the doggedly continuing conflict in Cyprus, a candidate member state of the Union.

The "troika," the spearhead of European action comprises the foreign minister of the country currently holding the presidency of the Union (Italy) and representatives of the previous (Spain) and next (Ireland) holders, as well as representatives of the European Commission in Brussels.

Shambles

The image of itself that it projects is hardly impressive and is more like a shambles than a forceful demonstration of a democratic Holy Alliance, what with its weakness at the preparatory stage, confusions, amateurism, and so forth. The protagonists themselves acknowledge this, citing the need to review the mechanisms of the Common Foreign and Security Policy at the Intergovernmental Conference that will start in Turin in March as an essential prerequisite.

Nonetheless, Europe is geographically close to Syria, Israel, and the Palestinian territories, and would appear to be an inevitable partner if the region is to be stabilized in the long term. Above all it is generous. It was this situation that Mrs. Agnelli knew she could turn to

her advantage by her presence there. That was why President al-Asad and Mr. Peres invited the EU to participate slightly more closely in the Israeli-Syrian talks under way in the United States. It remains to be seen how the United States will react.

In Gaza Mr. 'Arafat voiced a similar opinion about the Israeli-Palestinian talks. All the parties involved know that the signature of a treaty will not bring the peace process to an end, that it will have to be consolidated, and that if it is to be successful and to strengthen its economy, the Syrians and Palestinians will need considerable assistance, especially financial aid. What is more, as they are aware it is aid that the U.S. Congress will only award them parsimoniously. This leaves Europe, which is becoming more and more frustrated at only being called in when it is time to open its coffers! The three leaders whom Mrs. Agnelli met no doubt thought that perhaps it might be wise not to delay too long to behave properly toward the EU.

It is the same feelings that are inducing President al-Asad to negotiate an association agreement with the Union. He is not very enthusiastic about the idea of the European-Mediterranean partnership born last year in Barcelona, at least as long as peace in the region has not been fully reestablished in the area.

But there must be some consistency: Syria was well represented in Barcelona, and is letting Lebanon, which can do nothing without Syria's approval, negotiate an agreement with the Union. Above all, it knows that the conclusion of such an agreement is an obligatory phase on the way to benefiting fully from credits opened up by the Fifteen.

Italy: Fini, D'Alema Compare Positions Held by Parties

PR2002153596 Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA in Italian 20 Feb 96 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Unemployment, RAI, and Taxes in the Poles' Platforms"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The following platform was set out yesterday evening by Gianfranco Fini, leader of National Alliance, during "Il Fatto" [The Fact], conducted by Enzo Biagi.

The Unemployed

"The unemployment problem is a problem that can be addressed and resolved only once we realize that neither the civil service nor major industry will provide further jobs in the future. We have to go for other areas: the service industry, trade, the crafts, the tourist industry, and our cultural heritage, and laws are obviously needed to back intervention in these sectors, for example helping those who invest part of their profits to create new jobs by granting tax relief."

RAI [state broadcasting corporation] Without the Political Parties

"The public service is first and foremost a service that is not obsessed with competing with the private channels because, being public, it also has duties not incumbent on the private channels. I think that the current law governing the appointment of the RAI board is not all that bad, indeed it is a law that has ensured that party representatives have been kept off the board of directors."

Public Debt and Taxes

"We certainly cannot raise the tax levy, because Italy is now top of that detestable league of countries which tax their citizens more than any other. What we need to do is cut spending, cut pointless, parasitic spending, restrict waste, and, of course, privatize, so that there will be a progressive reduction in the public debt." And the following is the platform set out by PDS [Democratic Party of the Left] Secretary Massimo D'Alema.

The Unemployed

"First of all, we must bear in mind that increased output on its own will not create employment, because machines are increasingly taking over human labor, so we need to open up new areas of human work: environmental conservation, personal services, and turning our artistic and cultural heritage to good account. This is our country's greatest wealth: the arts and our cultural

history. And this needs a government that will create these opportunities for employment."

RAI Without the Political Parties

"Free it from the parties, and also from these board members who regard it as their property. But the RAI must answer to the public via the institutions. We are convinced that the process of partial privatization of the RAI for which the public voted in a referendum must also be launched, and a law on the board of directors must be passed to ensure that the RAI is not taken over by the parliamentary majority every time."

Public Debt and Taxes

"First of all, we need an efficient administration that gets everyone to pay taxes, which will mean that those who do pay will be able to pay less. In order to achieve this, before we do anything else we must simplify taxation because the more complicated taxation is, the more it annoys the public and the easier it is to evade."

Reform

Interviewed on TG2 [TV news], the PDS secretary spoke of the post-21 April [election date] issues: "Whoever wins the election will govern the country. If we win, as I believe we will, we will open talks with the others to reform the Constitution together, because the institutions belong to everyone, not just to the winners."

Italy: Prodi Sees Country Isolated If Freedom Pole Wins

BR2002153796 Rome L'UNITA in Italian 20 Feb 96 p 5

[Interview with Italian Olive Tree leader Romano Prodi by Walter Dondi in Bologna; date not given: "Prodi Appeals to the Moderates: 'Watch Out, AN Calls the Freedom Pole's Tune'" — first paragraph is L'UNITA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] "It was you journalists who wrote that the Olive Tree was more fragile than the Freedom Pole..." In mid-afternoon, when the news about the battle over the leadership in the right-wing Pole was beginning to turn into signs of open warfare, Romano Prodi allowed himself just a few words with the reporters. He was expected at a conference on the international economy organized by the Banca Antoniana: an audience of bankers and entrepreneurs with small and medium-sized businesses who knew him well and, to end up with, handshakes all round and words of encouragement: "Not to worry, we will win." The Professor was sure of himself. Although only a few days had gone by since the breakdown and the

dissolution of parliament, the days of gall were well behind him, and the reporter who asked him whether he was happier than he had been 10 days previously received a reply worthy of [TV comic satyr] Catalanò: "Which is better: a beautiful, intelligent, rich woman, or an ugly, ignorant, and poor one?"

[Dondi] Have you heard what Fini has said about Berlusconi and the Freedom Pole leadership, Professor?

[Prodi] I do not want to make conjectures about what is going on in other people's houses. However, I think it would not be a painless change for the Pole, which is why I think it more likely that Berlusconi will stay on. Be that as it may, it is clearly Fini who is calling the tune, and he has shown that he is calling it cynically, and against the interests of the Pole itself as well.

[Dondi] So things seem to be looking up for you: Berlusconi is floundering and, what is more, Fini's leadership is emerging.

[Prodi] All I will say is that it is a coalition heavily weighted to the Right, much more than could have been imagined some time ago. As to the rest, let us wait for the weekend, as Fini says.

[Dondi] Will you embark on a different road in the event of the Freedom Pole changing horses?

[Prodi] My road was mapped out over a year ago, and it has not changed an inch. I fail to see why I should change it now.

[Dondi] What changes do you feel have occurred around you in the last few days, Professor, and what sort of climate do you perceive among the public?

[Prodi] Expectations have changed. The feeling of disorientation has shifted to the right-wing Pole, and this is making it easier for the Olive Tree to close ranks. This is being clearly perceived, so the public, the electorate, has far greater confidence in the possibility of winning. The moderate voter above all realizes that there might be a high price to pay in the event of the Right winning.

[Dondi] In what terms?

[Prodi] First of all, it would mean Italy being isolated from Europe, because the hard Right would have the upper hand, whoever the prime ministerial candidate might be. Fini would exact a very heavy toll, especially on economic policy. It would not merely be a case of one party having the upper hand, no, because the leading player in the right-wing coalition has a very different concept of the economy. The international financial markets know full well that Fini's policy is not one of integration with Europe. It is an isolationist policy, and for the first time there would be radical changes in Italian policy in its relations with the other European

countries. This perception has a devastating effect on the moderate voter, as has already been seen.

[Dondi] As we know, elections are won by persuading the moderate electorate. Do you think that you have been rewarded for deciding on firm opposition to a deal between the two poles?

[Prodi] I do not know. I did not take that stance for electoral reasons, but for reasons of fundamental consistency, and I think that the moderate voter appreciates consistency, the fact that a politician does not behave like a barometer, so I think he or she will appreciate the effort being made to create a visible center pole within the center-Left alliance.

[Dondi] But how many limbs is the Olive Tree to have?

[Prodi] The fewer the better, but events will show whether we succeed in making two leaps or one at a time. Maccanico is fostering...

[Dondi] So he will be the one who incarnates the moderate center area in the Olive Tree?

[Prodi] We are working with Maccanico, but the moderate area is not embodied in a single person. My preference is for a broad limb in which, albeit retaining their obviously different roots, Catholics and nondenominationalists will come together to convey the sense of a new era. It is the message that I have been sending out time and time again for a year: alternation, the end of the homogeneous center, and a blend of the various outlooks.

[Dondi] But is there not a risk of this moderate electorate failing to grasp the significance of the stand-alone system?

[Prodi] One thing at a time.

Italy: Scognamiglio Wants Election Based on Platforms

BR2102122896 Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA in Italian 21 Feb 96 p 5

[Interview with Italian Senate Speaker Carlo Scognamiglio by Massimo Gaggi in Rome; date not given: "I Will Remain in Parliament With Center-Right" — first two paragraphs are CORRIERE DELLA SERA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Rome — "Did you know that Italy could be an Eldorado for foreign investors? The real economy is doing well, with the second largest balance of payments surplus in the world after Japan and negligible foreign debts: The 'Mexico threat' no longer exists. Of course, there is unemployment, the public debt... But we have done a great deal on the

deficit front, too: We now have a 65-trillion-lire [L] surplus net of interest on government stock. Nobody else in Europe has managed to do as much. In order for us to take off all we need is a proper platform and some political stability. Instead we risk paying a high price for the breakdown of the legislature: The lira is sliding, interest rates are rising again. The failure of Maccanico's attempt will cost citizens trillions of lire."

For Carlo Scognamiglio, the liberal economist appointed speaker of the Senate two years ago, the dissolution of parliament is a time for taking stock, and for regret over missed opportunities. But it is also a time for making plans.

[Gaggi] What will you do? Will you stand again as a center-Right candidate, or will you accept the overtures being made by some Olive Tree sectors?

[Scognamiglio] I will remain in Parliament with the Liberals. And since I believe that the Liberals will reaffirm their alignment with the center-Right, I will stay in the Freedom Pole.

[Gaggi] It is at present being shaken by the Fini-Berlusconi debate over the leadership...

[Scognamiglio] The debate, which does not interest me, consists of empty words. We will all be judged by the voters on the basis of our platforms. And on the basis of the credibility of the people called on to implement them. This is the only kind of debate that counts. So, first and foremost, platforms.

[Gaggi] But to keep to the subject of the economy, will the platforms in fact be so different? With regard to privatization, there are some in favor and some against in both alignments. Everyone is agreed on cutting the deficit. The Right wants to reduce spending and accuses the Left of aiming to raise taxation. But Maccanico says that when, as prime minister-designate, he proposed to both alignments a supplementary budget package worth L20 trillion comprising both spending cuts and tax hikes, he met with no disagreements.

[Scognamiglio] Indeed, there are no longer any disagreements among economists of both Right and Left. There are still differences of opinion, but they concern the means, not the ends, which are now the same — a market economy comprising some social elements. The Right is opposed to using public monopolies to perform the functions of a welfare state, whereas the Left is not. There are no longer the conflicts between monetarists and Keynesians. Now the conflict is between the professionals of politics.

[Gaggi] If the reforms to be introduced after the election are those that Maccanico worked on, if the economic

issues are more or less those, will there not be a return to the "broad understandings" after 21 April?

[Scognamiglio] I do not know. It depends on the election, on how clear a victory one side wins. But precisely because we are back in the same situation as in 1994, we need the utmost clarity on platforms: Otherwise voters will think that it is yet another power struggle. And for the sake of clarity the platform not implemented during the current legislative term must be the first task after the election. First, a constitutional reform consistent with the introduction of a first-past-the-post system. So there must be a pledge to grant the next parliament a constituent role, with the aim of lessening the legislative's powers, which are excessive in our country, and to grant greater autonomy to the executive. And also the direct election of the head of state in a two-round system.

[Gaggi] Will that be enough to reassure the markets, which are again shunning the lira? Some say that the financial world now fears the Right.

[Scognamiglio] That is not so. The markets fear instability. This is why I say that we wasted an opportunity with Maccanico. I had hopes, but so did the markets: The German mark fell to 1,050 against the lira. If the agreement on institutional reforms and the economy had worked, we could have reformed public finance without bleeding ourselves dry. With falling interest rates, in order to meet the famous Maastricht parameters it would have been enough to introduce a supplementary budget package worth L30 trillion for 1996 — L25 trillion from interventions in the spring and fall and L56 trillion saved in interest rates — plus a L15 trillion budget package in 1997. Now it will all be more difficult and more expensive.

[Gaggi] Can we still succeed? Is there not a pressing need to rejoin the EMS?

[Scognamiglio] We can succeed if the election produces clear situations, well defined trends that will restore the markets' confidence. This is why I place the emphasis on platforms. Keep in mind that in recent years, while people were talking about other things, this country has undergone a revision of public spending that has shifted a figure equivalent to 10 percent of the national income — an unprecedented figure anywhere in the world. This is why I say that we could become very attractive to investors. But these things are not known abroad: They always hear talk about an imminent collapse, and when you tell them about this everyone is amazed. Yes, we can succeed. Of course we must return to the EMS. Let me give you just one example: privatization. Its purpose is not merely to increase the Treasury's revenue, but also to expand the market economy area, to lighten the state,

to facilitate politics' adaptation to the first-past-the-post system.

[Gaggi] In the sense that it is easier for the losers to quit power if there are not too many spoils to be shared?

[Scognamiglio] Precisely. And the revenue resulting from privatization, which now goes to a fund to pay off the public debt, could be used more efficiently — either to reduce the annual deficit, as others in Europe do, thus more quickly reaching the level demanded by the single currency agreement; or to boost recovery in the South. Within a few years L300 trillion could be mobilized: The South could become the Florida of Europe, what with its pleasant climate and its artistic and natural beauties.

[Gaggi] And yet, because of the IRI's [Industrial Reconstruction Institute] disastrous situation, instead of privatization, we are hearing talk about the banks' capital intervention.

[Scognamiglio] It is absolutely crazy to think in terms of a salvage operation. All the more so since the banks are not at all flourishing.

Italy: Tribunal Will Not Suspend Berlusconi Trial

LD2102125296 Rome RAI Televideo Teletext
in Italian 1223 GMT 21 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Milan trial on alleged bribes paid to the Finance Police by five companies of [Silvio Berlusconi's] Fininvest group will continue normally.

The tribunal has rejected a request by Taormina, [Finance Police] General Cerciello's defense lawyer, that the trial be suspended for the election period. [passage omitted]

Spain: Interior Minister on ETA, Corruption, GAL
BR2002162296 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish
16 Feb 96 p 22

[Interview with Juan Alberto Belloch, justice and interior minister and PSOE candidate for Saragossa, by Jose A. Carrizosa and Jesus Duva in Madrid; date not given: "Gonzalez and I Knew What the Price of Fighting Corruption Was" — first paragraph is EL PAIS introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Madrid — Juan Alberto Belloch is optimistic in view of the upcoming elections, in which he will be running as the leader of the PSOE [Spanish Socialist Workers Party] list for Saragossa. He says that he does not regret the price that he and the government have had to pay to fight corruption — quite the contrary. Now, his greatest concern is terrorism. And not without reason: Just 24 hours after this interview, ETA [Basque Homeland and Liberty] killed Francisco Tomas y Valiente in Madrid, forcing EL PAIS to go back to him to supplement the interview with more questions.

[EL PAIS] It would seem that the killings of Fernando Mugica and Tomas y Valiente have exceeded the limits of the antiterrorist services. Do you have a feeling of failure?

[Belloch] As Tomas y Valiente used to say, every time someone dies at the hands of the terrorists, something inside us dies. This feeling is particularly strong in this job, but the prevailing feeling is one of rage and, therefore, one is determined to continue working tirelessly to put an end to this disgrace. Our obligation is to support the security forces. I can assure you that the antiterrorist services are working totally unselfishly and have obtained real results. There is no question of failure when it is the democrats versus the fascists.

[EL PAIS] Tomas y Valiente did not have an escort, despite the fact that his name appeared on ETA documents. Was that a police mistake?

[Belloch] Surely it is loathsome to talk about police mistakes after a terrorist assassination. The time has come to rid our culture of this kind of speculation which only plays into the hands of the killers. The security forces are working with total commitment and it is not right to speculate on that.

[EL PAIS] Will the terrorist escalation continue during the election campaign?

[Belloch] ETA is a gang of killers who always kill whoever they can. The fight against terrorism is always a long-distance race which we are sure to win, although at times the road is full of obstacles. Our obligation is

to try to prevent attacks. I want the citizens to know that the security forces are working to prevent attacks, and this is the priority to which we are devoting our best efforts. Let nobody doubt that this work will bear fruit and that the killers will be brought to trial.

[EL PAIS] A few days ago the prime minister mentioned the demoralization of the police, blaming it on controversies such as the GAL [Antiterrorist Liberation Groups] affair and the rehabilitation of ETA members.

[Belloch] It is not my job to point the finger, but to manage the consensus of political forces. My role can never be to create factors which make it more difficult. Antiterrorist policy is not just police results but also other important things like the climate of violence in the streets. If any element is missing, then that harms the fight, and surely that is reflected in the battle waged by the police. And when this goes hand in hand with no results then that may create a feeling of frustration.

[EL PAIS] Is the GAL scandal having an impact?

[Belloch] There are two different aspects to the GAL affair. One of these are the legal proceedings, which are a sign of the system's democratic health. They must carry on. A state which is capable of initiating legal proceedings of this kind is legitimizing itself. A clear distinction must be made between legal proceedings and the increasingly weak temptation to exploit these proceedings for partisan reasons. That goes against common sense.

[EL PAIS] Are there people responsible for this exploitation?

[Belloch] I have the feeling that the exploitation is slowing down during the run-up to the campaign. But during the legislative session it is clear that it did exist. After the last meeting of the Madrid Pact people understood the need not to exploit these facts.

[EL PAIS] Did the exploitation of the GAL affair have a positive impact on ETA?

[Belloch] As (or as encouraging attacks goes, I would say no. ETA kills when it can; it does not need a pretext. But I do think it did have an impact on part of the strategy of terror: street occupation and youth violence.

[EL PAIS] When you arrived at the Ministry you talked about the need to "settle the score with the past." Do you now think that this operation to uncover the state's "sewers" — so criticized by certain highly visible socialists — was accomplished?

[Belloch] There was criticism, but people must have criticized it under their breath because nobody told me. It would not be bad for someone who claims this to

use first names and last names. When the decision was made to give priority to the fight against corruption, I was aware that it would naturally have its price. This was assumed. Corrupt people never think it is a good thing to be investigated. I am not saying that the work against corruption is over, but I am saying that all of the major leaders of corruption are now in court. This was unavoidable for the democratic health of the country and — without prejudice to the possible costs in terms of votes — it is a positive thing for the future of the Socialist design.

[EL PAIS] Even though the PSOE looks like it is facing defeat in the elections?

[Belloch] I think that a broad sector of society is going to think the opposite and that the effort made against corruption is a good reason to vote for us again.

[EL PAIS] But it is difficult to sell to the voters the fact that for a decade secret funds have been stolen from the Interior Ministry and there have been other acts for which people are now appearing in court.

[Belloch] Those responsible for the funds are now in court and, therefore, I will not comment. The very act of establishing mechanisms to control this via legislation is the response that had to be given. Let the citizens choose whether they should vote for us or punish us because we took action against corruption. If we had not fought against corruption, neither I nor the government nor Gonzalez could have successfully met our obligations. It was a necessary job.

[EL PAIS] Yet, as a result, today a man indicted for presumed implication in the GAL affair is standing as a candidate.

[Belloch] I am not going to make any statement about Jose Barrionuevo. That debate is over.

[EL PAIS] Did you and the prime minister foresee the high price of "operation clean-up"?

[Belloch] The fight against corruption was one of the government's three priorities, and when that decision was made the prime minister and I were aware that it could not be done without some price. We assumed that. Why? Because the corrupt people we are trying to investigate never find it a positive thing to be investigated. Why would they be pleased? They are squirming! However, all of the core people responsible for corruption are now in court. That was essential!

[EL PAIS] Did you and the prime minister foresee such a high price?

[Belloch] For the most part, yes. We assessed the price with regard to the strict area covered by my Ministry, of course. What I had not taken into account was the

possibility of papers being removed from the Higher Defense Intelligence Center [CESID]. I say that in all sincerity. Neither the government nor I had information that documents were being smuggled out by a former agent. Perote was a surprise.

[EL PAIS] You have been accused of breaking the unwritten rule of traditional solidarity among interior ministers and former ministers.

[Belloch] Well, I do not understand that concept. I have the duty to support a government and a program in which, among other things, we were conducting an effective fight against all kinds of irregularity and illegality. So that means it is not an issue of personal solidarity. But that is something else. It has nothing to do with the kind of policy which has to be conducted, which is what the prime minister tells you to do.

[EL PAIS] Give us a picture of ETA.

[Belloch] One objective fact is that the number of command units has fallen greatly compared to the past. More importantly, the number of "illegal command units" (i.e., those on file) has fallen, so that it must be the "legal command units" (i.e., those not on file) which are carrying out actions traditionally done by the "illegals." A large part of the attacks carried out since November are the work of "legal command units." ETA has had to adapt to this reality with what is apparently a political rhetoric that seeks to justify its actions. This rhetoric is increasingly simplistic, basic, and silly. They have been forced to attack indiscriminately or attack targets which, because of certain features, guarantee the desired propaganda effect which is undoubtedly the essence of the entire process. This is what is determining the kind of attack, together with the genuinely new factor of ensuring that the strategy of Jarrai and other groups is not a flower that grows separately from ETA.

[EL PAIS] Are ETA and its satellites as monolithic as they appear?

[Belloch] There are various factions within ETA, KAS [Nationalist Socialist Coordinating Board], and Herri Batasuna [People's Unity Party]. There are those people who advocate stopping this foolishness and calling a halt to the violence. It is no exaggeration to say that this is not supported by marginal elements or those who can be kicked out, but it is a real line of thought in groups which are very close to the actual ETA structure. It is true that there is another group that is opting to do the opposite and that recent months have given the impression that the battle is being won: This is the group that is opting for the conventional model of action-repression-action. A clash is under way within ETA. There is no clear leadership, and that makes things difficult.

[EL PAIS] What will happen?

[Belloch] The battle currently raging within ETA could be guided in one direction or another. In so far as ETA sees that it has not managed to break the unity of the democrats, it is more probable that it will advance the views of those who believe that this process has to be stopped. To the same extent that they see success in breaking the unity of the parties, they are encouraging the segment which is more oriented toward violence.

[EL PAIS] What can citizens do against ETA?

[Belloch] The citizens have already demonstrated their support for the institutions which fight terrorism. Today we have to ask something else of them: The civic value of testifying to the police and judges about what exactly they have seen.

[EL PAIS] What is your view of the People's Party's attempt to paralyze the entry into force of part of the Penal Code?

[Belloch] That is nothing but rhetoric, and it is impossible. They will never have enough deputies to do this. It is electoral grandstanding. To announce that they will prevent the entry into force of the Code is an example of foolish arrogance by the People's Party. Is that what they call a smooth change? They will not do it. But I think this controversy is enlightening. My partner in controversy, [People's Party Secretary General] Francisco Alvarez Cascos, in a show of great intellectual merit, says that the People's Party will win the elections if they do not make mistakes. In this case, they have made a mistake.

[EL PAIS] Why did not you yourself ask for the PSOE membership card?

[Belloch] As a minister, my commitment to the Socialist project meant that a membership card was not necessary. Now, a situation could arise in which, for the work that I will be doing, it could well be more useful and more consistent to request a membership card. In that case I would request one.

[EL PAIS] Did the PSOE not include your Deputy Minister Margarita Robles (on the electoral lists) because she is blamed for uncovering the murky workings of the Interior Ministry?

[Belloch] I do not think so. If it were like that, they would have made me pay. The problem is that Margarita has absolute loyalty to the Justice and Interior Ministry's plan, but she does not fully identify with the Socialist plan. This is really what has been making the rounds within the party.

[EL PAIS] Can you see yourself leading a rally together with Barrionuevo?

[Belloch] That will not actually happen.

[EL PAIS] But it could have happened.

[Belloch] That will not actually happen.

[EL PAIS] What will happen if, after the elections, a government cannot be formed that has an absolute majority?

[Belloch] If the PSOE had one more deputy, then it would be preferable to incorporate the nationalists into government. With IU [United Left] there are differences of opinion on crucial issues.

Spain: Poll Shows People's Party Ahead of PSOE

BR21021224/6 Madrid ABC in Spanish 21 Feb 96 pp 26-27

[Report signed "S.N.": "People's Party Could Even Lead PSOE by 13 Percent"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Madrid — The Tabula-V team conducted 23-26 January an opinion poll on the Spanish people's voting intentions, whose results are as follows: The People's Party would obtain 43 percent of the votes, the PSOE [Spanish Socialist Workers Party] would secure 30 percent of the votes, and United Left would win 11 percent. That 43 percent for the People's Party would cause the party led by Jose Maria Aznar to exceed the maximum achieved by the Union of the Democratic Center during the first few years of the transition. The Socialists' 30 percent in voting intentions means that Felipe Gonzalez' party would lose 9 percent with respect to the 1993 election. [passage omitted]

According to the poll's results, the People's Party wins 43 percent of the votes — nearly 9 percent more than those won in the 1993 election. The PSOE secures 30 percent of the votes — nearly 9 percent less than three years ago. The United Left coalition shows a slight increase, and rises from the 9.57 percent of the votes in 1993 to 11 percent in this poll on voting intentions.

Convergence and Union [CiU] and the Basque Nationalist Party [PNV] nationalist political forces show slight increases. Specifically CiU rises from the 4.93 percent of the last general election to the 5.5 percent according to the Tabula-V poll. The Basque Nationalists rise from 1.24 percent to 1.5 percent. [passage omitted]

Distribution of Seats

If a similar result occurs 3 March, and other things being equal, the People's Party would secure an absolute majority, according to this poll. The political party led by Jose Maria Aznar could win 181 seats in the Congress of Deputies — 40 more than it had in the last legislative session.

One More Deputy for CiU

According to the Tabula-V poll, the PSOE would secure 117 deputies — 42 fewer than it obtained in the 1993 general election. United Left would win four more seats, rising from the 18 which it obtained in the last legislative session to the 22 which this poll on voting intentions gives it. CiU would secure 18 deputies — one more than it obtained in 1993. The PNV would lose a seat; it would go from five to four. (passage omitted)

Finland

Finland: Russia Asks To Observe Military Exercise

LD1902162096 Helsinki Suomen Yleisradio Network
in Finnish 1100 GMT 19 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Russia has asked to observe a Finnish military exercise, the Kymi-96 exercise. No such observation has taken place in Finland before. Finland has given a positive response to the request. The observation will start at 1800 today and it will last 48 hours. The observation group includes four officers and it is led by Colonel [Pavel Dudnik].

The Kymi-96 exercise started in southeastern Finland at the weekend and it will last a week. Over 2,000 vehicles and 12,000 soldiers are taking part in the exercise. [passage omitted]

The aim of the exercise is to promote openness, confidence, and security between Russia and Finland, the Finnish general headquarters states.

Sweden

Sweden: Riksdag Debates Country's Foreign Policy

BR2102103196 Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET
in Swedish 15 Feb 96 p 13

[Report by Lillemor Melsted: "Foreign Policy Debate Without Party Disputes"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Swedish security policy remains firm. At the same time there is a steadily growing demand for cooperation both within Europe and globally. This was the main theme for both Foreign Minister Lena Hjelm-Wallen and the other participants in Wednesday's [14 February] foreign policy debate in the Riksdag.

The unanimity was striking and the tone mainly one of mild reasoning. Nor did the foreign minister's replies to various questions did not lead to flare-ups in the discussion. Karl-Goran Biersmark (Liberal Party) and Bodil Francke Ohlsson (Green Ecology Party) wanted to know how the government views China's threat of military action against Taiwan, which will soon be holding a democratic presidential election.

"If China were to put its threats into action, it would be devastating for the country's international reputation," Lena Hjelm-Wallen said.

Ingrid Nashund (Christian Democratic Community Party) hoped that the government would take action against China's threat together with the EU and that Taiwan would be supported by the democratic world.

Preventive Diplomacy

The government's foreign policy declaration stated that Sweden remains nonaligned militarily. But changes in the surrounding world require "development" of the means Sweden uses to achieve this. What is needed is broad cooperation and preventive diplomacy, crisis management, and peacekeeping operations.

"The NATO we see leading the peacekeeping force IFOR [Implementation Force] in Bosnia is not the same one which existed before the Cold War ended," Hjelm-Wallen stressed.

In reply to a question from Eva Zetterberg (Left Party), she warned against misinterpretations of Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson's recent speech on NATO in Salen. He emphasized the importance of closely following the changes within NATO in the years to come. But there is no question of fixing a date for Swedish membership.

However, the foreign minister saw NATO as the main expression of US participation in the work for a new security order in Europe. At the same time the EU and its enlargement to the east and south are the driving force in a trend toward common security.

"The government will make the next few years a mustering of strength within EU cooperation, in order to welcome new members," Hjelm-Wallen said, and received many expressions of agreement.

At the same time Goran Lennmarker (Moderate Coalition Party), pointed out that it is not realistic to believe that the EU can construct a military security arrangement in the next few years. NATO is Western Europe's security arrangement. But the Partnership for Peace, PfP, is emerging as an embryonic form of a possible European security arrangement.

Political Stability

Lennmarker described the difficulty NATO has in acting positively vis-a-vis all the countries of Eastern Europe who want to become members and at the same time avoid challenging Russia. The conclusion is that partnership for Russia in NATO would contribute to political stability in Europe.

The Center Party's Helena Nilsson considered military nonalignment the best path for Sweden in the future too. She also praised the results of Swedish membership in the EU. This has improved Sweden's security policy situation.

"But there should be no doubt that Sweden demands and expects that Russia will observe the agreements it has signed," Nilsson said, supporting the government in its view that Russia's Chechnya policy is unacceptable.

Björnsmark and Naslund called for serious attempts to again achieve the goal of 1 percent for Swedish aid to developing countries, while Eva Zetterberg asked in vain whether the government was considering a ban on all use of antipersonnel mines by the Swedish defense forces.

Sweden's Stance Softer in a Year

Lena Hjelm-Wallen's foreign policy declarations shows how government policy has changed in the course of one year.

On Sweden's Actions:

1995: "Sweden's policy of military nonalignment with the aim that our country will be able to be neutral in the event of war in our immediate area remains firm. However, if we are to be able to contribute to stability in security policy matters, *it is necessary* that our actions be *predictable*."

1996: "The objectives of Swedish security policy remain the same, but *the means [of achieving these] must be developed* on the basis of changes in our surroundings."

1995: "It is our conviction that it is as a nonaligned country that Sweden has the *best possibilities* of contributing to security in our immediate area and to the construction of peace in Europe as a whole."

1996: "We continue to have the responsibility for the defense of our territory ourselves. On the other hand, both the *need for* and the *possibilities of cooperation* on a broad base when it comes to preventive diplomacy, crisis management, and peacekeeping have *increased greatly*. For us it is the *tasks and the problems which are of central importance*."

On Military Alliances:

1995: "Sweden *is not seeking* membership either of NATO or the Western European Union, WEU."

1996: "The NATO we see leading the IFOR peacekeeping force in Bosnia is not the same as it was before the end of the Cold War."

"Discussions of NATO expansion are *in a border zone between the old and the new* way of looking at security in Europe. Every country must make its own security policy choice. As far as Sweden is concerned, the most important thing is that no new dividing lines are created in Europe."

"The Western European Union has put the focus on *the work of promoting peace*."

Source: Foreign policy declarations, 22 February 1996 and 14 February 1996; SVENSKA DAGBLADET's italics.

Cyprus: Denktas Says South Has Chemical Weapons

TA1702180196 Nicosia Bayrak Radio in Turkish
1630 GMT 17 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Rauf Denktas has stated that there are reports to the effect that the Greek Cypriots, who are continually arming themselves, have now acquired chemical weapons. He has asked whether they are preparing for war or peace. Explaining that the Greek Cypriots, who are supplied with arms by Greece, are also bringing in mercenaries from Greece, Denktas added that Russia and France are continuing to sell arms to the Greek Cypriot Administration despite the UN Security Council resolutions. Denktas issued these statements during his meeting with Turkish Cypriot Culture Association officials in London, where he arrived from Istanbul to deliver a lecture on the Cyprus issue.

Pointing out that the Greek Cypriots, who spend millions of dollars in armament efforts, have purchased mines from Spain, Denktas added: Nobody can deny that peace is not what the Greek Cypriots have in mind. Noting that no progress has been made on the Cyprus issue — due to the Greek Cypriots' avoidance of the ne-

gotiating table — even though a point of agreement was reached numerous times, Denktas stated: Their intention is to take back all the rights we gained after 1974. You should not think that there ever was a possibility of conciliation with these people and that I was the one who drove it off. Noting that he has a reputation for achieving conciliation, Denktas said that the reason behind the deadlock is that the world has adopted a mistaken stand in not putting forward its demands to the Greek Cypriot Administration, which it recognizes as the legal Cypriot government.

Reiterating that the Greek Cypriots intend to join the EU, Denktas stressed that should this become a reality, the Turkish Cypriots will integrate with Turkey. He added: We will undertake with Turkey the same thing the Greek Cypriots carry out with Europe.

Denktas once again stated in London that the Turkish Cypriots will live with their heads high in their territory, that they will not be dominated by the Greek Cypriots, and that they will never give up Turkey's active and effective guarantorship.

Meanwhile, Denktas inaugurated a multipurpose complex built by the Turkish Cypriots in London.

Greece: Turkey's Batu on Greek-Turkish Relations
NC2002194196 Athens I KATHIMERINI in Greek
20 Feb 96 p 5

[Interview with Inal Batu, Turkish Foreign Ministry deputy undersecretary, by correspondent Alkis Kourkoulas]

[FBIS Translated Text] Inal Batu, Turkish Foreign Ministry deputy undersecretary, says that the three measures that escalated the Imia islet crisis are the leak to the press of the "silent diplomacy" concerning the Imia islet, the hoisting of the flag by the Kalimnos mayor, and the dispatch of Greek commandos to Imia. He also proposed the idea of forming a legal experts committee that will examine the legal arguments of both sides on the sovereignty of the Imia islet.

He did not clarify whether this committee will be bilateral or international, but he issued a strong appeal to restore dialogue. "At least give us a chance. We are telling you that there is legal evidence that supports our position and you are telling us that your legal position is especially strong. You have sovereign rights on the islet. Let us please talk through diplomatic channels or let us establish a legal specialists committee. We can do many things," said the Turkish diplomat to the I KATHIMERINI correspondent.

On the possibility of referring the issue to The Hague International Court, Batu said "yes," but he added that "as far as I can understand from the media, your government is not especially predisposed in this direction either. Why not then try to initially solve the issue through bilateral negotiations? Let us give it a try. What is wrong with this?"

The Turkish diplomat stressed the dangers of an absence of dialogue. "I must say that I am still very worried. If there is a certain accomplished fact, if there is an escalation, we might find ourselves in a new similar crisis. We must be very careful."

Batu, Turkish Foreign Ministry deputy undersecretary for Greek-Turkish relations, has been watching the crisis' development from the very beginning and participated in all the crucial meetings and negotiations with Washington. "I am happy that the crisis deescalated and I am happy we managed to return to the status quo ante [previous three previous words in Latin]. Now things demand a period to cool. Yes, we must let things cool and then we shall see what we can do in the future".

Referring to the crisis' history, Batu maintained that the basing of Greek commandos on Imia was the move that escalated the crisis. "The first move that escalated the crisis was the leak to the Greek press of the silent diplomacy we had with the Greek Foreign Ministry. I

think that was in the GRAMMA [letter]. That was the first step. The second was the hoisting of the Greek flag by the Kalimnos mayor, which was attributed to a group of irresponsible people of the media. This was not approved by our ministry. The next day I made a statement to the Turkish public that I do not want a war of the flags... The third and most serious move was sending the Greeks.

"We were aware that our friend would intervene and ask our two countries to withdraw their commandos from the disputed rocks. This is exactly what happened and there was a disengagement. We returned to the status quo ante [previous three words in Latin], which had been our only target from the beginning." "We hope that we will be able to deal with the issue through dialogue and negotiations, the same way other countries having similar problems do," said Batu. He noted that the two countries had talks on the Imia issue through diplomatic channels.

Finally, commenting on the legal arguments concerning the rocky islet, Batu said that the "report" between Italy and Turkey signed in December 1932 was never an official document. "The Italians asked us in 1937 to legalize it under the special circumstances of that period—World War II approaching fascist Italy. This never took place.

"During the peace talks in Paris you asked that a reference of the protocol be included in the Paris agreement, but there was an objection by the Soviet representative, who said that this document is legal.

"So, there was no reference to this document in the Paris agreement, and in 1950 and 1953 the Greek Government approached us to discuss whether this document is legal or not".

Greece: Stefanopoulos Sends Message to FYROM President

NC2002170996 Athens Elliniki Radiofonos Radio Network in Greek 1600 GMT 20 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Next week Greece and Skopje [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, FYROM] will start new talks in New York on the name issue. At a meeting yesterday the head of the Greek office in Skopje conveyed a direct message from President Konstandinos Stefanopoulos to Skopje President Kiro Gligorov. Skopje correspondent Takis Dhiamantis has the following report:

[Begin Dhiamantis recording] The head of the Greek liaison office in Skopje, Alexandros Malias, yesterday conveyed to President Gligorov a message from President Stefanopoulos. During their meeting, which ac-

quires special importance in view of the two sides entering a new phase of negotiations on the name issue in New York in a week, they stressed the complete and positive development of bilateral relations following the signing of an interim accord last September. They also examined every aspect of these relations and expressed the hope that there would be progress in every area of their cooperation. They also stressed the European orientation of both countries, something that has special importance, not only for bilateral relations, but for cooperation and security in the wider Balkan region. Irrespective of the atmosphere in Skopje, independent observers note that the New York meeting will depend on the political situation following the dissolution of the former government coalition in Skopje and, largely, on tomorrow's parliamentary debate on the vote of confidence in the new government of social democrat Prime Minister Branko Zebrenkovski. [end recording]

Greece: New Armed Forces Chiefs Elected

NC1702153896 Athens Elliniki Radhiofonia Radio Network in Greek 1200 GMT 17 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Konstandinos Simitis praised the Armed Forces' fighting condition following yesterday's KISEA [Government Council on Foreign and Defense Affairs] meeting. Simitis presided over the meeting during which all the military leadership changes were announced.

The decisions were unanimous. Lieutenant General Manousos Panayioudhakis was elected chief of the Army General Staff, Vice Admiral Leonidhas Paleoyioryos was elected chief of the Navy General Staff, and Air Force General Yeoryios Andonettis, who was promoted to air force general, was elected chief of the Air Force General Staff.

Greece: General Tzoganis on NATO, WEU Policies

NC1602171496 Athens Elliniki Radhiofonia Radio Network in Greek 1600 GMT 16 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] General Athanasios Tzoganis today took over as YEETHA [National Defense General Staff] chief from the outgoing chief, Admiral Khristos Limberis, in the presence of National Defense Minister Yerasimos Arsenis.

Referring to the excellent cooperation with Admiral Limberis, Arsenis stressed that the Armed Forces were fully prepared during the recent crisis and always had the tactical advantage. He continued: The Armed Forces' deterrent strength will stop Turkish expansionism.

Outgoing YEETHA chief Admiral Limberis stressed: We cannot easily find ears to hear in NATO and the Western European Union [WEU]. He said the recipe is typical: The unity of the alliance is more important and compromises are required. Limberis supported that this stance equals cynicism and realism, if not blackmail. He said patience, arguments, and resistance are necessary in the struggle for national survival. Limberis continued: Despite the clear Greek arguments raised by the defense minister, the outcome has often been affected by others' will. As for my stance [words indistinct].

The new YEETHA chief referred to Turkish intransigence and Ankara's expansionism and called on the Turkish ally to come to its senses so that the two people might live peacefully.

President Konstandinos Stefanopoulos today received Admiral Limberis to bid him goodbye.

Turkey: Baykal Urges Dialogue With Greece

TA2102091196 Ankara TRT Television Network
in Turkish 2200 GMT 20 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Deniz Baykal, foreign minister and deputy prime minister, has said that there is a need to start a productive dialogue with Greece in order to solve the Kardak problem, the Aegean problem, and all the problems in their bilateral relations.

Deniz Baykal returned to Turkey this evening after completing his visits to certain European countries. The aim of his visit was to explain Turkey's standpoint in the problems that have emerged with Greece and regarding the issues that must be discussed within its Customs Union relations with the EU.

In a statement at Istanbul Ataturk Airport, Baykal said that during his contacts, he had the opportunity to assess the relations between Turkey and the EU, and the crisis that emerged recently between Turkey and Greece. He recalled that to this end he met with the foreign ministers of Britain, Belgium, France, and Italy — who is also the EU term chairman — and with the NATO secretary general.

[Begin Baykal recording] Turkey can in no way accept a fait accompli in the Aegean. It is necessary to solve the situation that emerged in Kardak through negotiations, in peaceful ways. Turkey is ready to contribute to the search for a dialogue regarding this issue. There is a need to start a productive dialogue with Greece in order to solve the Kardak problem, the Aegean problem, and all the problems in their bilateral relations. We are ready to do whatever is necessary. We explained this during our contacts. [end recording]

Baykal said that during his contacts he stressed that Greece must not turn the problems and difficulties in its relations with Turkey into factors that will undermine the relations Turkey is trying to establish with the EU. He went on to say that his ideas were received with interest in all the countries he visited, and that his interlocutors agreed with him.

Turkey: Article Suggests Water Issue Must Be Dealt With

NC2002150896 Istanbul CUMHURIYET in Turkish
15 Feb 96 pp 1, 17

[From the unattributed "Truth Behind Developments" column: "Transnational Waters"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The many problems on Turkey's domestic agenda have overshadowed the country's international problems, mainly the transnational waters issue. The Tigris and Euphrates Rivers have been a prob-

lem for long time. Obviously, all transnational waters have common aspects.

Two serious developments have taken place during the past few days. The first was the meeting held by Syrian and Iraqi officials on 10 February. They later disclosed that they had agreed to cooperate on the use of the Euphrates River. Obviously, the construction of the Birecik and Kargamis dams has made the two countries uneasy. They claim that the two dams, which are a part of the Southeastern Anatolia Project [GAP], will upset the balance in the use of transnational waters and cause contamination in their territory.

Meanwhile, Ankara has said that a water problem does not exist between Turkey and Syria and that a sufficient amount of water is allowed to flow into the latter. It also has said that "terrorism" is the main problem that the two countries should discuss.

Syria and Iraq are on the UN list of seven countries which "support terrorism." Nevertheless, Damascus has frequently denied that it supports terrorist activities. Furthermore, it has denied that Workers Party of Kurdistan [PKK] leader Abdullah Ocalan lives in Syria.

The second development was related to Israel. Prime Minister Shim'on Peres disclosed that peace in the Middle East depends on water supply and that Turkey should allow a sufficient amount of water to flow into Syria.

It seems that the transnational waters issue will be taken up at an international platform in the future, regardless of whether or not Turkey wants the matter to be internationalized. Apparently, Syria has secured the support of the Arab League for that purpose.

Considering the developments, Turkey cannot achieve its desired result by saying that "a problem does not exist on transnational waters." Turkish officials must not be "forced to study the archives for information on transnational waters" when a serious problem emerges. It is a fact that the Foreign Ministry has prepared itself. But we have to consider the matter from various angles.

The GAP is a very attractive investment, which will affect the future of not only Turkey but also the entire region. So, Turkey can broaden its views on the matter and try to find a way to make joint investments with Syria and Iraq. That will prevent the transnational waters from becoming an international problem and facilitate the establishment of friendly relations among the countries in the region.

Turkey: Demirel Gives Ramadan Message of Faith

TA2002163396 Istanbul Kanal-6 Television
in Turkish 1700 GMT 19 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Suleyman Demirel has issued a statement saying calm down. The president issued a Ramadan Bayram message, saying that Bayrams are days of love, tolerance, friendship, and solidarity. It was as if he was calling on the leaders to unite. Here is what he said:

[Begin Demirel recording] The minute the Turkish Grand National Assembly held its swearing-in ceremony, steps were taken for the establishment of a government. These steps have not yet yielded any results; however, everything is being done in line with constitutional rules. The Constitution sets a time limit for these efforts. Whatever needs to be done is being done. I hope that a positive result will be achieved. There is no need to be concerned about either secularism or democracy by misinterpreting the outcome of the elections, which are the expression of the nation's free will. It is impossible to change the basic characteristics of the Turkish Republic. Furthermore, the exceptional place the great Ataturk — the liberator of Turkey and founder of our republic — has in the hearts and minds of our nation continues to be indisputable. Despite all the difficulties it encounters, Turkey continues in the direction indicated by the great Ataturk. We must have faith in our state, our nation, democracy, and our future. [end recording]

Turkey: Yilmaz on Efforts To Conclude Talks by 1 Mar

TA2002194796 Ankara TRT Television Network
in Turkish 1800 GMT 20 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Motherland Party [ANAP] leader Mesut Yilmaz received journalists at his home in Ankara on the occasion of the Bayram holiday. Naturally, the conversation drifted toward politics and the efforts to form a government. Yilmaz replied to questions about the negotiations to establish a government.

The ANAP leader pointed out that there are differences with the Welfare Party [RP] regarding the distribution of the ministries and that they are trying to overcome these differences. A reporter asked him why he wants to establish a government by 1 March. Yilmaz replied that for the budget to be enacted by the last week of April, the draft budget must be submitted to the Assembly by 10 March, so it is important for a government to be established by 1 March.

Yilmaz said that he called President Demirel on the telephone and briefed him on the efforts to set up a government. He said that in their negotiations with the

RP so far, they discussed the government framework, its structure, and the ministries. He added that the joint program will be determined during the negotiations on the coalition protocol. He expressed the hope that ANAP and the RP will overcome the differences between them. He said his optimism stems from the conciliatory stand the RP has adopted.

Replying to a question, Yilmaz said that some of his party colleagues have received messages from the True Path Party calling for a dialogue but that it is impossible to say to what extent these messages are authorized or binding.

A journalist asked him: If Ciller agrees to establish a government with you under the premiership of a third person or to give the first round of the premiership to you, what will your stand be? Yilmaz replied that he can relate to that only if the negotiations with the RP fail.

Asked what kind of guarantees ANAP is seeking from the RP for the government partnership, Yilmaz said:

[Begin Yilmaz recording] I said this very clearly to Mr. Erbakan at the very beginning. The cooperation we will conduct with the RP is not the kind of cooperation conducted between two regular parties. We are going to cooperate with a party that has distanced the other parties and with which the other parties do not want to cooperate. As far as we are concerned, the RP must give us certain guarantees in connection with the structure and program of the government and the implementation of the program. We have received guarantees in connection with the structure of the government to a large extent. We will now discuss the government. That, however, is not enough. The cooperation on which we agreed with the RP regarding the implementation of the program is based on the realities of Turkey and the basic principles of the republic, and it is a cooperation that aims at solving Turkey's basic problems. [end recording]

Yilmaz stressed that even if agreement is reached on all the issues, the coalition cannot work if agreement is not reached on the implementation.

The ANAP leader revealed that in line with the agreement he reached with the RP regarding the rotational system, the person they will agree on will become the prime minister of the election government at the end of four years. If their majority allows it at the end of the four years, he said, they will determine the election date together. Yilmaz explained that this depends on the harmony within the government. He pointed out that no government has ever completed its regular term in Turkey.

Replying to another question, Yilmaz said that he first expressed his views on the rotational system to the president and that he proposed it during coalition contacts after the president said that the system might work given the present picture.

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